

(1.5 millim.). Surface smooth, uniformly dark greenish grey. Cephalic extremity obtusely conical, shorter than broad, somewhat separated from the rest of the body by an indistinct constriction at the base, with a longitudinal fissure on each side reaching almost to the apex, without eyes; orifice for the proboscis terminal; proboscis cylindrical, filiform, without armature, with broad, low papillæ arranged in rows, lying in numerous loops in the anterior thickened part of the body.

*Borlasia incompta* (mihi). Zweigletscherbucht.

Worm 30 millims. long, cylindrical, of uniform thickness (2 millims.), with the exception of the pointed cephalic and caudal extremities; surface smooth, whitish. Cephalic extremity not separated from the body, very shortly conical, without eyes or lateral fissures; orifice for proboscis ventral, close behind the apex of the head, and with the buccal orifice immediately behind it; the extended proboscis shorter than the body (18 millims. long), but almost of equal thickness, cylindrical, without papillæ on its surface; immediately behind the orifice a principal stylet upon a long brown basal piece, and on each side of this a pouch with three subordinate stylets.

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VIII.—On a new Species of Humming-bird belonging to the Genus *Spathura*. By J. GOULD, F.R.S.

COMPARATIVELY speaking, it was but the other day that only a single species was known of this form, respecting the generic designation of which much confusion exists. In 1846 I proposed the term *Ocreatus*, which I subsequently discovered had been previously employed. I therefore, in 1850, substituted that of *Spathura*. In the meanwhile, 1849, Dr. Reichenbach employed that of *Steganurus*, which he changed in 1853 to *Steganura*. I have here given preference to my own term; but, of course, ornithologists may adopt which they please, so long as they give me credit for discriminating the new species.

The bird alluded to as the only one originally known is the *Ornismya Underwoodi* of Lesson, published by him in 1831. Since that date three or four others have been discovered and named; and I now propose to characterize a fifth—thus raising the number of species now known to six, all of which possess specific characters whereby they may be at once distinguished from each other. These Racket-tails, as they have been familiarly termed, are denizens of the Andes and the Cordilleras, from New Granada to Bolivia, including the great spur which juts off into the Caraccas. I find that the

two white-booted species, *Spathura Underwoodi* and *S. melanantha*, frequent the regions north of the equator, that those with red boots, *S. peruana*, *S. rufocaligata*, and the new one about to be described, are as exclusively found to the south of it, and that the white-booted *S. melanantha* and this new red-booted species inosculate in Ecuador. The latter, for which I now propose the specific name of *solstitialis*, differs from *S. peruana* in having, like the white-booted *S. Underwoodi*, the outer margin of the spatulate tipped tail-feathers grey—a character which is not to be found in either of the other red-booted species.

To monograph the species is easy :—

1. *Spathura Underwoodi*. New Granada and Caraccas.
2. — *melanantha*. Ecuador.
3. — *solstitialis*. Ecuador.
4. — *Peruana*. Peru.
5. — *rufocaligata*. Bolivia.
6. — *scissura*. Peru.

Of the last-mentioned bird I have as yet seen but immature specimens; and a doubt has arisen in my mind as to whether it may or may not be some abnormal state of a previously known species; yet I should be wanting in judgment were I at the present moment to sink the name of *scissura* into a synonym.

One of the birds I describe below has been placed in a box by itself in my collection for many years; but I have deferred characterizing it until further evidence of its being distinct had been procured: this has now been obtained by an examination of additional specimens sent home by Mr. Buckley.

*Spathura* (or *Steganurus*) *solstitialis*, Gould.

*Male*. Bill black; crown of the head and all the upper surface, flanks, and under tail-coverts dull green; wings and outer tail-feathers purplish brown, the outer margins of lateral or spatulate feathers grey, the remaining tail-feathers rich bronzy green above; throat and chest fine glittering green; tarsi thickly clothed with reddish buff feathers.

Total length 5 inches; bill  $\frac{3}{4}$ , wing  $1\frac{3}{4}$ , tail  $3\frac{1}{8}$ .

*Female*. Destitute of the tail-spatules and of the thick clothing of the tarsi, which are only thinly covered with buff feathers; buff is also the colour of the crissum; upper surface grass-green; tail bronzy green, the outer feather on each side tipped with white; under surface beautifully spotted with green on a white ground. In size of body she is about the same as the male.